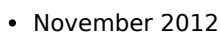




Подробнее

- ace\_cub\_reportr



His flights had a direct impact on the battle's outcome by providing the engaged units with timely supplies of

ammunition critical to their survival, without which they would almost surely have gone down, with much greater loss of life. After medical evacuation helicopters refused to fly into the area due to intense enemy fire, Captain Freeman flew 14 separate rescue missions, providing life-saving evacuation of an estimated 30 seriously wounded soldiers — some of whom would not have survived had he not acted. All flights were made into a small emergency landing zone within 100 to 200 meters of the defensive perimeter where heavily committed units were perilously holding off the attacking elements. Captain Freeman's selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary perseverance and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission and set a superb example of leadership and courage for all of his peers.

Captain Freeman's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Thanks, Major.

I salute you.

---

I mention this today because there's a chain email going around claiming Major Freeman died on the same day as Michael Jackson, and that an acknowledgement of his service to his country has been lost in the media furor over Jackson's passing.

In fact, Freeman was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2001, while he was still alive, a feat that approximately one in six recipients do not manage. Freeman received the thanks of a grateful nation from the hand of the President--thirty-six years late, but some things are slow in arriving.

After his death, they named a post office in his hometown after him.

Ed Freeman lived, and was real, and saved uncountable human lives. Some of the things he did to save those American soldiers may very well have resulted in the deaths of other human beings, because among the supplies he airlifted were cases of ammo for those engaged.

This fact does not lessen or qualify his heroism. But in an honest assessment, it must be acknowledged.

None of this is meant to denigrate the contributions and sacrifices of Mr. Jackson (I wonder how many lives he saved? And the media spotlight he endured almost certainly cost him his own.), but to make a simple point.

When you repurpose someone else's narrative, their heroism and their sacrifice, for a didactic purpose, you are already on shaky moral ground.

When in order to do so, you lie--sir or madam, you become a monster.

*For whoever habitually suppresses truth in the interests of tact will produce a deformity from the womb of his thought.*

--Captain B. H. Liddell Hart\*

Thank you, Major Freeman. And thank you too, Mr. Jackson. I very much hope you are both now at peace.

---

[\\*Quoted in full irony.](#) Really, a textbook example of leakage.

Tags: [nothing is ever that simple](#)

**Current Location:** maybe it's just my journalistic ethics that are offended... nah.


**Current Mood:** 😡angry

**Current Music:** Oingo Boingo - Nasty Habits

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( 8 comments — [Leave a comment](#) )




 [beatriceeagle](#) on July 16th, 2009 06:45 pm (UTC)

I hate wanting to leave a comment, but not knowing what to say.

So I guess, just consider this an acknowledgment of your post, and a message of agreement.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

 [carabosse](#) on July 16th, 2009 07:53 pm (UTC)

I think a version of this is also going around about Shifty Powers, who most of us know from the HBO series "Band of Brothers", with the primary complaint being that celebrities get more attention than people who served their countries in the military.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#) on July 17th, 2009 01:35 am (UTC)

Which seems, well, curious, since the *job* of celebrities is to get attention, and I don't think I know anyone who joined the military to be famous...

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

[calanthe\\_b](#) on July 16th, 2009 11:31 pm (UTC)

*When you repurpose someone else's narrative, their heroism and their sacrifice, for a didactic purpose, you are already on shaky moral ground.*

*When in order to do so, you lie--sir or madam, you become a monster.*

Yes.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



[bunny\\_m](#) on July 17th, 2009 04:05 am (UTC)

*Biography for  
Capt. Ed 'Too Tall' Freeman (Character)  
from We Were Soldiers (2002)*

*You're a 19 year old kid. You're critically wounded, and dying in the jungle in the Ia Drang Valley , 11-14-1965, LZ X-ray, Vietnam . Your infantry unit is out numbered 8-1, and the enemy fire is so intense, from 100 or 200 yards away, that your own Infantry Commander has ordered the MediVac helicopters to stop coming in. You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns, and you know you're not getting out. Your family is half way around the world, 12,000 miles away and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day. Then, over the machine gun noise, you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter, and you look up to see an un-armed Huey, but it doesn't seem real, because no Medi-Vac markings are on it. Ed Freeman is coming for you. He's not Medi-Vac, so it's not his job, but he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire, after the Medi-Vacs were ordered not to come. He's coming anyway. And he drops it in, and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 2 or 3 of you on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire, to the doctors and nurses. And, he kept coming back, 13 more times and took about 30 of you and your buddies out, who would never have gotten out. Medal of Honor Recipient, Ed Freeman, died on Wednesday, March 25th, 2009 at the age of 80, in Boise, ID. May God rest his soul.*

Quoted from [IMDB](#).

Odd that the date is wrong, though. \*shrug\* The important bits are there.

Vaya con dios, Major Freeman.

*Edited at 2009-07-17 04:12 am (UTC)*

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



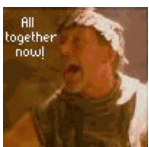
[ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#) on July 17th, 2009 01:45 pm (UTC)

That's the text of the chain email that's going around.

Also note it leaves out any mention of his supply runs, which also took place under heavy fire in the same unarmed whirlybird.

I think he was vayaing con dios all along.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)




[bunny\\_m](#) on July 17th, 2009 03:10 pm (UTC)

Certainly he had someone on his side. Or maybe the NVA weren't game to mess with someone that made Master Sergeant, a battlefield commission and then Captain.

Certainly I wouldn't want to piss him off.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



 [ace\\_cub\\_reportr](#) on July 18th, 2009 10:55 pm (UTC)  
Some people, maybe you just don't pick a fight with.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

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